

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 051510Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3287
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 3 ALGIERS 3260

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CORRECTION MRN 3260 VICE 3250)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AG
SUBJ: ALGERIA AFTER A YEAR, A PERSONAL VIEW

1. SUMMARY: WHILE PERENNIAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DURABILITY OF REGIME AND WISDOM OF FORCED DRAFT INDUSTRIALIZATION CONTINUE BE POSED, BOUMEDIENE SEEMS BE FIRMLY IN SADDLE AND IMMEDIATE POLITICAL-ECONOMIC PROSPECTS ARE REASONABLY GOOD. ALGERIANS WILL HAVE TO REDUCE RATE OF CAPITAL INVESTMENT IN 1977, HOWEVER, UNLESS THEY FIND NEW SOURCES OF CAPITAL. U.S.-ALGERIAN RELATIONS ARE FRAGILE BUT IMPROVING AND GAME IS WORTH THE CANDLE. END SUMMARY

2. APPROACHING FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RENEWAL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS HAS PROMPTED ME TO TAKE PERSONAL, RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT LOCAL SCENE. IN DOING SO I AM COMFORTED BY FAMILIARITY OF QUESTIONS WHICH ARE POSED ABOUT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF BOUMEDIENE REGIME, BUT DEPRESSED

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BY PAUCITY OF HARD INFORMATION ON WHICH TO BASE AN

ANALYSIS. SELDOM HAVE SO MANY KNOWN SO LITTLE ABOUT SO MUCH. FOLLOWING FEARLESS FORECAST SHOULD BE READ WITH THAT IN MIND.

INTERNAL POLITICAL

3. CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS ARE OBVIOUS. FIRST OF THESE IS PERENNIAL ONE THAT BOUMEDIENE IS STILL RUNNING THINGS AND THAT THERE IS NO OVERT EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED, EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE CONSTANT RUMORS OF EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE OPPOSITION GROUPS IN THE KABYLIE, THE AURES AND ABROAD. FOR INSTANCE, A RECENT TRAVELER BROUGHT BACK A REPORT FROM A PIED NOIR IN PARIS THAT THE TRIBES IN THE AURES WERE STOCKING ARMS AND PREPARING A REVOLUTION, AND WE HAVE HEARD SIMILAR RUMORS ABOUT ARMED GROUPS IN THE KABYLIE. SUCH REPORTS SHOULD BE TREATED WITH RESERVE. THE LIKELIHOOD OF ARMS STOCKING OCCURRING ON A SIGNIFICANT SCALE WITHOUT GOA BEING AWARE OF IT IS SLIGHT, UNLESS RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN REGIME ARE INVOLVED. (THIS IS ALWAYS A POSSIBILITY, OF COURSE, BUT WE ARE UNABLE EVALUATE IT.) IF PIEDS NOIRS IN PARIS KNOW ABOUT IT, MINISTER OF INTERIOR HERE PROBABLY WILL TOO. REVOLT IN MOUNTAIN AREAS IS A THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY, BUT WE SEE NO EVIDENCE OF TURBULENCE THERE TODAY AND BELIEVE REVOLUTION IS MORE LIKELY TO COME FROM WITHIN POWER STRUCTURE THAN FROM WITHOUT.

4. ALGERIAN STATE OBVOUUSLY IS NOT A MONOLITHIC AS IT WOULD LIKE TO BE CONSIDERED; THERE ARE QUARRELS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE CABINET AND THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CRITICISM OF THE GOVERNMENT BY PEOPLE IN IT. FURTHERMORE, FONMIN BOUTEFLIKA SEEMS INCREASINGLY DISTANT FROM BOUMEDIENE. DIFFERENCES SEEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL, HOWEVER. THERE IS NO PUBLIC BACKBITING AND GOVERNMENT IS WELL-DISCIPLINED AND REASONABLY EFFECTIVE. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS EVIDENT THAT BOUMEDIENE IS CONCERNED ABOUT HIS PERSONAL SECURITY AND HE, AT LEAST, IS NOT TAKING LIGHTLY THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE MAY TRY SOMETHING, BUT HIS BEHAVIOR INDICATES FEAR MORE OF ISOLATED ASSASSIN THAN OF AN ORGANIZED PUTSCH.

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5. SECOND IS EQUALLY PERENNIAL OBSERVATION THAT THERE ARE NO VIABLE POPULAR POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS HERE AND THAT REGIME DEPENDS ULTIMATELY ON MILITARY SANCTIONS, AS IT ALWAYS HAS. NO FOREIGN DIPLOMAT SEEMS TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT LOYALTY AND RELIABILITY OF THE MILITARY AND IT IS QUESTIONABLE HOW MUCH ALGERIANS THEMSELVES KNOW. BY ALL OUTWARD APPEARANCES, MILITARY OFFICERS ARE LOYAL SUPPORTERS

OF REGIME, BUT ONE WONDERS HOW LONG THAT LOYALTY WILL LAST AS MEMORIES OF REVOLUTION FADE AND OPPORTUNIST MENTALITY DEVELOPS. LATTER ALREADY VERY STRONG. MANY MEMBERS OF ELITE, INCLUDING MILITARY, ARE OUT TO FEATHER THEIR OWN NESTS IN A THOROUGHLY BOURGEOIS WAY, WHICH AUTOMATICALLY MEANS CORRUPTION AND DISILLUSIONMENT IN THIS THEORETICALLY AUSTERE SOCIETY. THE COMPETITION TO GET ON GRAVY TRAIN WITH LIMITED SEATING IS LIKELY TO GET OUT OF HAND SOME DAY, WITH JUNIOR MILITARY OFFICERS ASSERTING CLAIM TO LARGER SHARE OF GOOD THINGS OF LIFE.

6. FAILING CREATION OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS, AND PAST EXPERIENCE IS NOT VERY PROMISING IN THAT RESPECT (ALTHOUGH BOUMEDIENE HAS JUST ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF COMMISSION TO DRAW UP NATIONAL CHARTER), REGIME IS LIKELY BE OVERTURNED SOONER OR LATER BY A COUP D'ETAT LED BY MILITARY OR AT LEAST SUPPORTED BY IT. TIMING IS ANYBODY'S GUESS. MINE IS THAT IT WILL NOT BE FOR ANOTHER TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS. I ASSUME REGIME WILL BE ABLE TO SOLVE ITS IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS AS THEY ARISE AND THAT IT WILL FINALLY BE DONE IN BY AGING PROCESS RATHER THAN BY INCOMPETENCE. AS NEWER GENERATION IS TRAINED AND EXPOSED TO WESTERN IDEAS (THERE ARE ESTIMATED 1000 TO 1500 ALGERIAN STUDENTS IN US AND UK AT MOMENT AND PROBABLY DOUBLE THAT NUMBER IN FRANCE) IDEAS OF REVOLUTIONARY VETERANS, WHO HAVE DOMINATED LOCAL POLITICS SO FAR, WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY PASSE. I ESTIMATE IT WILL TAKE ANOTHER TEN YEARS BEFORE THIS LEAVENING OF IDEAS STARTS HAVING SERIOUS EFFECTS. MY BRITISH COLLEAGUE, ON OTHER HAND, HAS JUST SENT IN HIS OWN ESTIMATE THAT THE REGIME HAS ANOTHER EIGHTEEN MONTHS BEFORE THE CONTRADICTIONS INHERENT IN ITS ECONOMIC POLICIES BRING ABOUT DISASTER. I THINK HE MUCH TOO PESSIMISTIC, AND TOO INCLINED JUDGE THIS PLACE BY
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WESTERN STANDARDS, BUT MUST CONFESS TO NO MONOPOLY ON INSIGHT.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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7. A QUESTION WHICH IS PERHAPS MORE IMMEDIATE IS WHAT HAPPENS IF BOUMEDIENE IS ASSASSINATED OR OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED. THERE IS NO OBVIOUS HEIR APPARENT. BOUMEDIENE HIMSELF TELLS ME ANOTHER QUOTE COMBATANT UNQUOTE (MUNADIL) WOULD TAKE OVER HIS CHAIR, THAT HI HAS NO THRONE TO WORRY ABOUT AND THAT THE FUTURE OF THE ALGERIAN REVOLUTION IS SECURE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, NO OBVIOUS HEIR APPARENT. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTEFLIKA AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR ABDELGHANI ARE THE TWO MOST LIKELY CANDIDATES AT THE MOMENT, BUT THE FORMER IS INCREASINGLY ESTRANGED, IT SEEMS, AND ABDELGHANI LOOKS LIKE A STRONGER CONTENDER, PARTICULARLY GIVEN HIS HOLD ON THE SECURITY AND INFORMATION APPARATUS. WHOEVER SUCCEEDS BOUMEDIENE, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS LIKELY TO BE RIPE FOR DISSENSION AND INTER-NECINE QUARRELS WITHIN THE RULING ELITE AND WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO HOD TOGETHER IN THE ABSENCE OF A STRONG PERSONALITY WHO IS UNQUESTIONED LEADER AS BOUMEDIENE IS TODAY.

8. MILITARY WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE TO TAKE OVER, AS THEY
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DID IN 1965, BUT UNDER WHOSE LEADERSHIP IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR. THERE IS NO DOMINANT FIGURE ON MILITARY HORIZON TODAY (ASIDE FROM ABDELGHANI, WHO NOW IS ESSENTIALLY CIVILIAN ROLE) UNLESS IT IS COMMANDER OF CHERCHELL MILITARY ACADEMY, COL. YAHYAWI (YAHIAOUI), AND HIS PROMINENCE IS DUE TO HIS USE AS AN EMISSARY RATHER THAN TO HIS CONTROL OF TROOPS. AREA MILITARY COMMANDERS

ARE PROMINENT IN PRESS AND OTHER MEDIA, AND ARE POWERFUL ELEMENT IN POWER STRUCTURE, BUT THEIR OWN RIVALRIES WOULD HAVE TO BE SUBMERGED BEFORE ANY OF THEM COULD EMERGE AS SOLE LEADER, AND THERE ARE INDICATIONS BOUMEDIENE TRYING CUT SOME OF THEM DOWN TO SIZE NOW, PERHAPS WITH EYE TO FUTURE.

9. ABOVE IS PRETTY SPECULATIVE AND IS MEANT MORE TO OUTLINE SOME OF THE UNCERTAINTIES THAN AS ATTEMPT TO PREDICT FUTURE. ALTHOUGH EVERYTHING LOOKS CLAM ON THE SURFACE, THIS STATE, LIKE ALL OTHERS THAT DEPEND ON A SINGLE MAN, HAS BUILT WITHIN IT ITS OWN DYNAMIC OF DISSOLUTION.

ECONOMIC

10. THERE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION THAN THERE IS ON THE POLITICAL. INTERPRETATIONS VARY CONSIDERABLY, HOWEVER. ATMOSPHERE TODAY IS PERCEPTIBLY MORE UPBEAT THAN IT WAS FOUR MONTHS AGO. RECENT IMF AND EXIM REPORTS AND SIMILAR STUDY BY BANKERS' CONSORTIUM PUTTING TOGETHER DOLLARS 400 MILLION LOAN OFFER ARE ALL CAUTIOUSLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROSPECTS (ALTHOUGH CLOSE STUDY OF IMF REPORT SHOWS THAT IT IS QUITE CRITICAL OF ALGERIAN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES). ONE PROBLEM, OF COURSE, IS RELIABILITY OF STATISTICS USED IN SUCH STUDIES. THEY ARE SUPPLIED BY ALGERIANS, WHO ARE NOT ABOVE DOCTORING THEM, ASSUMING THEY HAVE THEM TO START WITH (AN ASSUMPTION WHICH IS OFTEN UNWARRANTED).

11. PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF CONCERN TO FOREIGN OBSERVERS HAVE BEEN UNCERTAINTY REGARDING ABILITY OF ALGERIANS TO MAINTAIN CURRENT RATE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, POOR RATIO OF OUTPUT TO INVESTED CAPITAL RESULTING FROM INCOMPETENCE
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OF PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF MANY PROJECTS, LACK OF TRAINED CADRE, POOR MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT, IMBALANCE BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE IN PLANNING, AND POOR AGRICULTURAL PERFORMANCE. WHILE NATURAL GAS HAS BEEN HIGHLY ADVERTISED AS EVENTUALLY SOLVING ALL THE FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THERE ARE WELL-FOUNDED DOUBTS ON THIS SCORE. CURRENT STUDIES SHOW A BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DEFICIT PERSISTING INTO THE 1980'S AND IT SEEMS CLEAR TO US THAT ALGERIANS WILL HAVE TO START REDUCING DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES IN 1977 AND WILL NOT BE ABLE MEET THEIR OVER-AMBITIOUS INDUSTRIALIZATION GOALS. MAJOR SHORTFALLS IN THIS REGARD COULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL REPRECUSIONS.

12. ON OTHER HAND, ESTIMATED 12 PERCENT DEBT SERVICE

RATION IS MODERATE AND MEANS COUNTRY STILL HAS BORROWING POTENTIAL. TANGIBLE PROGRESS IS BEING MADE IN INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND THE PACE OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY, IN SPITE OF SOME DIRE PREDICTIONS SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, IS BEING MAINTAINED AT A HIGH RATE. ALGERIANS ARE NOT DOING AS WELL AS THEY COULD, BUT THEY ARE DOING BETTER THAN MOST OF THEIR THIRD WORLD COLLEAGUES AND HAVE A COMFORTABLE CUSHION AGAINST STARVATION. ECONOMIC COLLAPSE IS UNLIKELY.

US-ALGERIAN RELATIONS

13. DURING PAST YEAR WE HAVE MOVED FROM ANOMALOUS STATUS OF NO FORMAL RELATIONS TO FULL RESTORATION (ALTHOUGH NO ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR NAMED TO WASHINGTON YET). IN ASSESSING WHAT DIFFERENCE THIS HAS MADE, I CONCLUDE THAT WHILE OUR RELATIONS REMAIN SOMEWHAT FRAGILE, THEY HAVE IMPROVED PERCEPTIBLY. MOST IMMEDIATE EVIDENCE OF THIS IS FACT THAT BOUMEDIENE, IN OCTOBER 21 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON, DESCRIBED OUR RELATIONS AS QUOTE VERY GOOD UNQUOTE. THIS IS GREAT OVERSIMPLIFICATION, OF COURSE, BUT IT REFLECTS STATE OF MIND WHICH WILL HAVE TANGIBLE IMPACT ON DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS IF NOT ON IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION. EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS IS FACT THAT I CAN GET IN TO SEE BOUMEDIENE FROM TIME TO TIME, SOMETHING WHICH DENIED TO MOST OF MY DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES (SOVIET AND FRENCH ARE PRINCIPAL EXCEPTIONS).

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FURTHERMORE, LINE TO PRESIDENTIAL COUNSELOR HAMDANI, WHICH CLOSED AT TIME OF RESTORATION, HAS NOW BEEN RE-OPENED ON RESTRICTED BASIS AND THIS TOO IS PRIVILEGE DENIED MOST OF MY COLLEAGUES. IT ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT SENIOR OFFICIALS ON WHOM I CALL ALL SPEAK, SOMEWHAT GUARDEDLY IT IS TRUE, OF THEIR INTERESTS IN IMPROVING RELATIONS AND GENERALLY GIVE ME A CORDIAL RECEPTION.

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ACTION SS-25

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14. IMPORTANT FACTORS ON PLUS SIDE AS FAR AS ALGERIANS ARE CONCERNED ARE: (A) COMMON INTEREST IN SALES OF US EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO FINANCE THEM THROUGH EXIM LOANS, (B) DRAMATIC INCREASE IN LEVEL OF OUR IMPORTS FROM ALGERIA, (C) WILLINGNESS OF US BANKS TO PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN MANAGING RECENT EURODOLLAR LOAN, AND (D) OUR POSITIVE STANCE AT PREPCON II. WE ALSO HAVE COMMON INTERESTS IN COOPERATING ON SUCH MATTERS AS NARCOTICS CONTROL AND CIVIL AVIATION. AS RESULT OF ALL THIS, WE ARE DOING GOOD DEAL OF BUSINESS HERE. TOTAL VALUE OF OUR EXCHANGES IN BOTH DIRECTIONS LAST YEAR WAS CLOSE TO DOLLARS 1.4 BILLION.

15. FINALLY, ALTHOUGH MEANINGFUL SOCIAL CONTACTS WITH ALGERIANS ARE DISCOURAGINGLY FEW, THERE HAS BEEN PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVEMENT IN THIS RESPECT IN RECENT MONTHS AND I SENSE A FRIENDLY DISPOSITION TOWARDS AMERICA ON PART OF MOST PEOPLE I MEET IN STREET, OR OUT IN THE COUNTRY, ONCE INITIAL RESERVE IS BROKEN THROUGH. THERE IS A GENERAL, LIVELY INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION OF THINGS AMERICAN
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WHICH INDICATES THAT HOSTILITY AND SUSPICION OF SOME OF POLITICAL ELITE IS NOT UNIVERSAL, AS IT HAS BEEN FROM TIME TO TIME IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES I HAVE SERVED IN.

16. LOOMING LARGE ON NEGATIVE SIDE, HOWEVER, IS OUR BASIC CONFLICT OF OUTLOOK ON MOST OF THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC. BOUMEDIENE IS FOND OF SAYING TO AMERICAN VISITORS K(AND TO ME) THAT US HAS WRONG SET

OF FRIENDS. IT SHOULD BE WITH THE PROGRESSIVE FORCES, NOT THE REACTIONARIES (AS SEEN BY ALGERIANS). THIS IS A FACILE AND SUBJECTIVE INTERPRETATION OF OUR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS, AND OVERLOOKS A GREAT DEAL OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL REALITY, BUT IT IS SORT OF CONCEPT ALGERIANS ACCEPT AND LIKE, AND THEY START FROM THAT PREMISE IN CONFRONTING US AROUND THE WORLD.

17. PRIMARY CONFLICT BETWEEN US HAS CENTERED AROUND ALGERIAN CALL FOR NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER AND SUPPORT FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. WHILE FORMER MAY BECOME SOMEWHAT MUTED, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, AND LATTER WILL PRESUMABLY LOSE SOME OF ITS IMPORTANCE AS AREAS TO BE LIBERATED LARGELY DISAPPEAR, THERE STILL PLENTY OF OCCASIONS FOR US TO BE AT LOGGERHEADS. THE ENERGY DIALOGUE, TWO KOREAS, PANAMA, PUERTO RICO, SPANISH SAHARA, AND PALESTINE COME TO MIND IMMEDIATELY. ALGERIANS TALK OF THEIR DESIRE FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION WITH EVERY EVIDENCE OF SINCERITY, BUT OFTEN SHOW THEMSELVES UNABLE COMPREHEND THAT THIS MEANS ACCEPTING PROPOSITION THAT OTHER SIDE'S POSITION HAS SOME VALIDITY.

18. CAUSES OF THIS ATTITUDE CAN BE FOUND, AMONG OTHER PLACES, IN ALGERIANS, REVOLUTIONARY ORIGINS, IN LIMITED WORLD VIEW OF THEIR LEADERSHIP, IN THEIR FRENCH TRAINING, IN THE FASHIONABLE IDEOLOGIES OF THE THIRD WORLD, AND IN OUR OWN SELF-CRITICISM, IN WHICH REST OF WORLD HAS JOINED SO ENTHUSIASTICALLY. THIS RATIONALE DOES NOT MAKE THEM ANY EASIER TO DEAL WITH, BUT POINTS TO FACT ALGERIAN OPPOSITION TO US IS NOT CAPRICIOUS BUT REASONED RESULT THEIR INDEPENDENT PERCEPTION OF SITUATION. IT IS NOT MADE IN MOSCOW OR PEKING. IT IS NOT RESULT OF BOUMEDIENE'S PRESIDENCY, ALTHOUGH HIS PERSONALITY HAS SOMETHING TO DO

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WITH IT. IT IS PREDICTABLE CONSTANT AND IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT BY ANY CONCEIVABLE MEANS WE CAN USE WE CAN CHANGE IT SUBSTANTIALLY.

19. CONSTANT QUESTION, IN VIEW OF ALL THIS, IS WHERE WE ARE GOING IN OUR RELATIONS WITH ALGERIA. IS GAME WORTH THE CANDLE? IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN REALLY HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH HERE? IS COOPERATION POSSIBLE? THERE ARE NO EASY ANSWERS. ALGERIANS ARE GOING TO BE A THORN IN OUR SIDE WHATEVER WE DO. WE CAN, HOWEVER, DO BUSINESS WITH THEM AND WE CAN PERHAPS MITIGATE THE SHARPNESS OF THE THORN SOMEWHAT BY:

A. RESPONDING POSITIVELY TO ALGERIAN REQUESTS WITHIN THE LIMITS: OF AVAILABILITIES, OF OTHER COMMITMENTS, OF

OUR INTERESTS AND OF OUR NATIONAL POLICIES (AS ON LNG).
WE SHOULD NOT BEND OVER BACKWARD TO DO SO HOWEVER. EVERY
DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH A CLEAR VIEW OF WHAT IS IN
IT FOR US. WE SHOULD HAVE NO ILLUSIONS ABOUT PERMANENT
GOOD WILL, BUT AT LEAST WE CAN KEEP CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATIONS
OPEN, WHILE PROMOTING AMERICAN ECONOMIC INTERESTS. WE
CAN ALSO HELP THIS PROCESS ALONG BY ENCOURAGING GREATER
CONTACT THROUGH EXCHANGE PROGRAMS AND STUDY IN THE US.

B. LETTING ALGERIANS KNOW FRANKLY WHAT IS ON OUR
MINDS AND REQUESTING THEIR SUPPORT, OR TELLING THEM HOW
WE FEEL ABOUT THEIR OPPOSITION. WE WILL NOT GET A GREAT
DEAL FROM THIS, BUT THE ALGERIANS HAVE SHOWN THEMSELVES
SENSITIVE ABOUT THEIR PUBLIC IMAGE AS EXTREMISTS AND WE
WILL OCCASIONALLY GET SOMETHING OF VALUE AS A RESULT.
THE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF THIS IS THE SECRETARY'S
DIALOGUE WITH BOUMEDIENE ON THE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM.
THIS HAS CERTAINLY HAD A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON
BOUMEDIENE, WHO HAS KEPT TO A MODERATE LINE EVEN UNDER
PRESSURE WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE AT TIMES.

20. OUR EFFORT IN ALGERIA IS NOT WORKING MIRACLES,
BUT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS PERCEPTIBLY, IF SLOWLY.
WE SHOULD KEEP AT OUR TASKS WITH PATIENCE AND AN EYE
OPEN FOR OPPORTUNITIES. THE GAME HAS BEEN WORTH THE
CANDLE SO FAR.

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